

The Middletown Transcript.

EDWARD REYNOLDS, Editor.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1873.

Deferential to all; Obsequious to none.

The Duello.

So much time has elapsed since the practice of duelling as a means of settling disputes ceased, that the people had about come to the conclusion that it was altogether dispensed with. Not so, however. A bloody and fatal rencontre, and one too, as outsiders might think, entirely unprovoked, took place in Richmond, Va., last week. Two young men, named respectively McCarthy and Mordecai, met on the "field of honor," and, having gone through with all the formalities of the code, delivered each his fire at the other from Navy revolvers at the short distance of ten paces, and both fell, one fatally, the other almost as seriously injured. The former, Mordecai, has since died; the other with all the other parties to the affair have been arrested.

The difficulties between the young men which led to this fatal result, grew out of a misunderstanding in regard to the publication of some verses, in which it was supposed allusion was made to a young lady. It seems to be a sort of impossibility for any mischief to happen in which a woman is not concerned. In this instance the lady was entirely ignorant of the mischief of which she was the unconscious cause.

This sudden revival of the long unused custom of the duello, is the subject of many remarks, and expressions of opinions by the press throughout the country. It would, doubtless, have been well could this fearful custom have forever slumbered. It has well nigh ceased in all other civilized countries. It is still practised, it is true, to a limited extent in France, but it is of a very mild type, and fatal results very seldom occur. It would be well indeed could public sentiment rise to such a height as to render such affairs impossible. But, as was remarked to us a few days ago, duelling, like everything else, has its uses.

There is an anecdote told of a gentleman who, a few years ago, made a visit to the ancient congressional duelling grounds, at Bladensburg. The grounds where once the "bloody" meetings took place, were overgrown with grass. On inquiring the cause, he was told that the grounds were no longer used, for said the old man, his informant, since the Southern men left there is nobody to fight. In former days, when man gave another the lie, he was immediately challenged, and the offense was wiped out with blood. Now, when a Northern man calls another a liar, the answer is "you're another," and they quit speaking to, and begin talking about, each other.

Bad as the custom of the duel was, and as much as it is to be condemned, it cannot be denied that men were more careful and respectful in the language they used in conversation, either to, or about others, than they have been since its abolition. Men did not, in those days, curse each other or call each other liars, as is done too frequently now. The prevention of the too free use of abusive and harsh language and the compelling men to the practice of a more respectful demeanor toward their fellows, was the use of the duello, in former years. No other means of procuring the same ends has arisen to take its place, but it had fallen into disuse and it is not a custom to be revived.

The Increased Salary.

The president, when on a visit to his farm in Missouri, ordered to his stable in Washington, two year old colts, remarkably fast trotters, which took the premium at the St. Louis fair, without competition—Exchange.

The attention of those who are disposed to object to, or find fault with, the increase of the salaries of our government officials, is especially invited to the above. It will be readily seen that the old foggy supposition that the dignity of the Presidential office could be maintained on the old salary is absurd. It is a sine qua non of his exalted position that our jockey President should have fast horses, consequently, whenever he, in performing the duties of his office, by travelling about over the country, sees a fast colt, it is positively necessary that he should at once order it to "his stables at Washington." Now, how any one could be so parsimonious as to refuse to willingly submit to an increase of his taxes in order to allow this little enjoyment to our honest (?) chief magistrate is not clearly seen. The rulers of European nations have very large salaries and the vast majority of the people very little besides the heavy taxes necessary to keep up those salaries, but those are old Quakers which have enjoyed regal splendor for centuries. Ours is a so-called republican government, and those foolish old fellows who founded it were absurd enough to think that the chief magistrate of a re-

public would not need so much display and extravagance of living. It is true that the nation flourished and grew under this Democratic simplicity from its foundation until 1860, but the people didn't know anything in those days. Since then the party of progress has arisen and opened their eyes. They now see and understand how insignificant is the burden of taxation when brought into comparison with the glory which the nation will acquire from paying high salaries to her rulers, and when they see and understand the useful purposes to which the great head of the nation applies the \$50,000 voted him by Congress, they will no longer object to the recent increase, but will readily and without murmuring take the bread from their children's mouths in order to be the more able to pay the taxes necessary to meet these increased expenses.

A RUSSIAN PRINCESS.—Madame Alga de Maluta Traloff (what a name) is a real live Russian Princess (so she avers) who is now "doing America." And if only one tenth that she says about herself is true, she will doubtless cause many a feeling of jealousy in the bosoms of some of America's fair daughters. She claims to be visiting America through the advice of her physician in London. She professes to be immensely wealthy, and is travelling in style. The reports about her transvaal remind us forcibly of the stories of Monte Christo, Baron Munchausen, or the Arabian Nights. Her wardrobe is carried in six immense trunks, and consists of large quantities of jewels, Cashmere shawls, fur cloaks, Siberian sables, a toilet of ermine furs, and one of Astrakan, white Cashmere opera cloaks, one bordered with gold, twelve or fourteen hats from Paris, and dresses of velvet and silk and other costly materials. Her ladies alone she valued at two hundred thousand dollars, and for the loss of some of them, taken from her trunks, as she alleges, while on a journey from Albany to New York, she has sued the railway company for seventy-five thousand dollars.

A telegram from Morristown, New Jersey, announces that the Democrats carried the charter election in that city on the 12th instant for the first time since its incorporation. There seems to be a general disposition everywhere to rebuke Radicalism for its faithlessness, and in many localities, heretofore Republican, the popular verdict this Spring has been decidedly against that corrupt organization. All that the Democracy need to sweep the country is to make good nominations, and show in deeds as well as words that they are true reformers.

News comes to us from the lava beds that the soldiers are in excellent spirits over the result of the last surprise party inaugurated by Captain Jack, and that they now believe they have cornered the Modocs. This is cheering. It not unfrequently happens, however, in business circles, that the enterprising capitalist who makes a "corner" finds himself in the end the victim of his own speculative propensities, and unless our brave soldiers are sufficiently on their guard, their present attempt to "corner" the savages may result in the same disastrous way.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A terrible calamity happened in Nova Scotia last Tuesday. The Drummond Colliery exploded with fearful violence. Sixty or more men were in the mines at the time of the explosion, and as all means of escape were cut off by the falling earth, all are supposed to have perished. The greatest excitement prevailed above ground immediately after the explosion. Who is to blame, or what caused the accident has not yet been ascertained.

COAL OIL BASH.—A rather severe accident occurred in Baltimore on Saturday last from a novel way of using Coal Oil. A Mrs. Meitzel was cooking a hash and sent her husband to get some vinegar to put in it. He obeyed, and got coal oil instead of vinegar, and when Mrs. M. poured it on the hash (on the stove) an explosion ensued knocking that hash into pieces. Mrs. M. was severely burned on both arms.

Later despatches from Rome give a rather discouraging account of the condition of the Pope. He is spoken of as being very feeble, having suffered a fainting fit of an hour's duration, and is exhibiting generally excessive debility. Monday was his 81st birthday, but he was unable to give audience to those who called to offer congratulations.

THE POSTAL CARDS.—The much talked of Postal Cards are at last putting in an appearance. They were issued from various branches of the Department in the early part of this week, and were bought up as rapidly as they were issued. Whether they will answer the purpose for which they are used will only be known after trial.

Additional reinforcements of troops and police are on their way to St. Martinsville, L. S., to enforce the Kellogg rule.

Presbyterian General Assembly.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, convened in Baltimore on Thursday. Its session will be held in the Central Presbyterian Church (Dr. Smith) corner of Saratoga and Liberty streets. The opening sermon was delivered by Rev. J. S. Nichols, of St. Louis, Mo., the Moderator of the Assembly last year. The body is composed of delegates from the various Presbyteries, and numbers about five hundred ministers and elders.

It is expected that an effort will be made at this session to effect a union with the Southern Presbyterian Church. Overtures have been made heretofore, but have met with steady refusal from that body.

Among other important business coming before the Assembly will be two cases of appeal from the synod of Baltimore, one originating in the church of Port Deposit, growing out of a difficulty between one of the elders and the board of Trustees in relation to the calling of a pastor, and which has been decided against the appellant by the Presbytery of New Castle and the Synod of Baltimore; and the other originating in the Presbytery of Baltimore, growing out of the action of the Presbytery in adopting the report of a committee by which there was assigned to a minister a field of missionary labor claimed by another minister, which has also been decided by the Synod adversely to the appellant.

The Assembly will also receive and act upon the response of the Presbyteries to two overtures sent down last year for consideration—one on the demission of the ministry and the relation to the church of a minister who may have demitted his official functions, and the other proposing a constitution rule, that "every case of the trial of a minister for heresy in doctrine, and all cases relating exclusively to the construction of the constitution, may be carried by appeal or complaint to the General Assembly; in all other cases or questions the decision of the Synod shall be final."

The Presbytery of Baltimore has returned a negative response to both these overtures.

Peach Growers' Meeting.

An adjourned meeting of the Peninsular Peach Growers' Association was held at Dover on Tuesday. The attendance was rather small. But seven members from this county were present. Mr. R. H. Cummins, from the committee appointed to obtain the reduction of the tax on the P. W. & B. R. R., reported that a bill for that purpose passed the House at the last session of the Legislature, but was killed in the Senate. Another bill, nominally for the same purpose, passed both Houses, but some of its provisions are so preposterous that it cannot be carried into effect. He understood that its constitutionality would be tested.

Mr. Fulton reported that an act of incorporation had been obtained from the last Legislature, but thought it advisable that no steps should be taken towards an organization under that charter until the regular meeting in June.

Mr. Fulton was requested to procure a certified copy of the charter and present it to the Association at its next regular meeting.

Samuel Townsend, Esq., chairman of the committee on new routes being absent, Mr. R. H. Cummins recommended the selection of Jay Gould's proposed new route from Clayton to the foot of Marey street, N. Y., for the shipment of fruit this season. Mr. C. stated that the road would be finished by the first of July. He said the company had been looking up a continuation of the new line from Bombay Hook to Dover, and Milford; that they were now at work, and in earnest, not for the purpose, as seems to be a prevailing opinion, of getting the hands of the wire men once said, but to be placed in a position to grow for a certain rail road, beginning at Port Penn, running through Middletown, and ending nowhere, via, Pine Tree.

Our brass band is going to hold a strawberry festival very soon, and all lovers of music and strawberries are invited to a cordial invitation thereto, to attend the festival of the band, which will keep an eye open for the notice, and attend the festival.

Considerable improvement has, and will be made in town this season. Mr. Mathew's has built an addition to his store; Jesse Bryant, Esq., has greatly improved the front of his store; Dr. F. W. Foster, of the firm of F. W. & J. W. Foster, has added to his building, recently painted. Lanes, being kept clean, and the roads in the best condition, and to be improved for one year ending May 16, 1874, and in winter months for six months thereafter.

S. A. MacAllister, Esq., for the State.

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IN PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

Edward Reynolds.

TERMS—\$2.00 a year, payable in advance, no paper discontinued until so ordered, except at the option of the publisher.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.—Advertisements of 10 lines or less will be inserted twice for \$1.00, and 25 cents for each additional insertion. Business cards, \$1.00 per year; one-half of a column, \$1.50; one-half of a column, 3 months, \$1.50; one year, \$25. One-half of a column, 3 months, \$1.50; 6 months, \$30; one year, \$50. One column, one year, \$100. Business Locals, 10 cents a line for each insertion. Marriages and Deaths inserted free. Obituaries charged for at regular advertising rates.

The North Carolina papers want the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence celebrated. The Mecklenburg Declaration preceded that at Philadelphia by over fourteen months. The first was made on the 20th of May, 1775, the last on the 4th of July, 1776. The Petersburg *Advertiser* says in reference to the former:

"Now here is a chance for any patriotic Virginian or other Southerner who is on the look-out for a Centennial to celebrate. The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, made in the town of Charlotte, anticipated by several months the more conspicuous and decisive occasion of the 4th of July. The heroic repudiation of the authority of the British crown was made by the ancestors of our own Southern people; by the earlier breed of the patriots and statesmen of the great State of North Carolina. Why should they not have a Centennial too? We hope the people of Charlotte will take steps to that end; and we announce in advance that this is the only Centennial which we mean to honor, or which is worthy the honor or attention of the people of Virginia and of the South."

A PROPER LAW.—The New York Legislature has passed the bill, which has been for some time pending, intended to prevent the frequent accidents that occur from the careless handling of firearms. It is now a misdemeanor in New York to point a gun, pistol, or other firearm at any one, whether the weapon is loaded or not, and the crime is punishable by fine and imprisonment. This is a wholesome enactment, well worthy imitation everywhere.

DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO IN OHIO.—A terrible tornado passed over Belle Centre, Ohio, on Friday morning of last week, blowing down eight dwellings, one church and four or five stores. No loss of life is reported. The loss of property is estimated at \$40,000.

The same storm passed over a number of interior towns, but beyond uprooting trees and prostrating fences no serious damage is reported.

Visitors to the Vienna Exposition number from 12,000 to 16,000 daily.

Business Locals.

S. M. REYNOLDS' stock of Ladies', Misses' and Children's button and lace-lacing, and old shoddy is now complete, having added to our already large stock three hundred pairs, direct from the factory. Ladies, call and examine them.

Ladies call and see the new style HOTTENTOT BUSTLE at S. M. REYNOLDS'

Over-exertion, either of body or mind, produces debility and disease. The usual remedy is to take some stimulant, the effect of which is the same as giving a tired horse the whip instead of oats. The true way is to fortify the system with a permanent tonic like the Peruvian Guano, a proteinate of iron which gives strength and vigor to the whole system.

Wool Wanted. Market price paid for Wool in exchange for goods, at S. M. REYNOLDS'.

The celebrated POOL GRAIN FAN, the best in the world for cleaning all kinds of grain. For sale by E. T. EVANS.

A correspondent, writing from Athens, early contrasts the mixtures to be found there of ancient and modern civilizations. Railroads spin their trains amid the temples of three thousand years; steamers dash their swells upon the Piraeus, and the scream of their whistles resounds through the air, while the shrill voices of the gods and the heavens beyond their gods. In Aver's world-renowned metropolis these con summations of modern science are pasted on the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Areopagus and the Theseion, while the modest girls of Cherry Petal, Aver's Sarapetula, Agave Cura and Pillis look from the windows of the shops in the streets of Athens, where they are sold.—N. Y. Sunday Globe.

T. A. McCLELLAND'S Auction Rooms.

Buy your Furniture, Mattresses, &c. of T. A. McClelland, 1210 Chestnut Street, Handsome New Furniture for Parties, Bed Rooms and Dining Rooms, at Auction Sales every Monday and Thursday, and sold at Private Sales at Auction Prices. All goods warranted. Furniture carefully packed and shipped.

Domestic Sewing Machine.

CERTIFICATE

To the Domestic Sewing Machine Company, Office, 807, Market St., Wilmington, Del.

May 7th, 1854.

Gentlemen.—This is to certify that I have had in constant use one of your Light Running Domestic Sewing Machines about 12 months. It is as good as any I ever used. It is of good work, having worn or gotten out of order in the least. It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, that I can, and do recommend it to every one, as being the Very Best, Most Durable, Simplest, Easiest to Operate, Lightest Running, First Class Machine now in the Market. Yours very truly,

Hannah M. Perkins.

THESE

First-Class Machines

may be had of me. Call and examine before purchasing any other.

Chas. E. Clayton,

Middleton, Del.

WANTED—A House-Keeper, Address with reference, BENJ. M. CRAWFORD, Jr., Middletown, Del.

May 10—21.

WANTED.

A SITUATION as HOUSE-KEEPER, Ad-

dress, C. C. Taft,

Middleton, Del.

May 10—21.

Miscellaneous.

Important Notice

The prospect for peaches may be blighted, but

S. M. REYNOLDS

HAS MARKED HIS

GOODS DOWN

TO

PANIC PRICES.

—

TO OUR NEW STOCK OF GOODS, JUST RECEIVED.

From the city, we ask your inspection. It contains every new style of the spring.

COME EARLY, and make your selection.

Of wanted Dress Fabrics, you'll find

our assortments the best.

The SAGE and MIGNONETTE POPLINS.

The ladies go with a zest.

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